



THINKING OF RUNNING AS A MAINE CLEAN ELECTION ACT CANDIDATE IN 2016?

What is the 2016 Maine Clean Election Act (MCEA) program?

Candidates for the Legislature may qualify to receive public funding for their campaigns, as an alternative to raising traditional campaign contributions. In 2015, voters approved a citizen initiative to improve the program so that candidates can be assured that they will have access to sufficient resources for their campaigns.

How do I get started?

- Register as a candidate with the Commission.
- Find someone reliable and competent to be your treasurer.
- File other required forms (please request a Getting Started Packet for MCEA Candidates).
- Open a separate campaign account at a bank or credit union.
- Begin collecting seed money (you can do this after you register until April 20, 2016).
- Starting on January 1, 2016, you may begin to collect qualifying contributions to become eligible for MCEA funding (see below).

After you register, the Commission will send you a 2016 Quick Guide with more detailed information and guidance about running as an MCEA candidate.

What is seed money?

To get your campaign started, you may raise private contributions (seed money contributions) of up to \$100 from individuals, including you and your family members. House candidates may collect up to a maximum of \$1,000, and Senate candidates may collect up to \$3,000. Seed money must come from individuals – not organizations or businesses. The individuals who contribute seed money do not have to live in your district or even in Maine. Collecting seed money is not required, but experienced MCEA candidates usually recommend it.

How do I qualify for the basic level of MCEA funding?

Candidates must collect a minimum number of valid qualifying contributions (QCs) of \$5 or more from registered voters in their district and submit them to the Commission by 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2016. You may collect them by check, through the Commission's online QC service, or by money order.

These are small contributions of personal funds from the voters in your district that demonstrate they support you qualifying to receive public funding from the State.

	House Candidates		Senate Candidates	
	<i>60 QCs to qualify</i>		<i>175 QCs to qualify</i>	
	Uncontested	Contested	Uncontested	Contested
Primary Payment	\$500	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$10,000
General Payment	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$20,000

How do I qualify for supplemental payments of MCEA funding?

As a result of the citizen initiative, general election candidates in a contested race may request up to eight supplemental payments of MCEA funds. Whether a candidate seeks supplemental funding and the level of funding is entirely up to the candidate who should make a realistic assessment of the resources he or she needs to run a successful campaign.

To qualify for supplemental payments, candidates can continue to collect qualifying contributions and submit them to the Commission until October 18, 2016.

- For every 15 valid qualifying contributions collected by a House candidate, the Commission will make a supplemental payment of \$1,250.
- For every 45 valid qualifying contributions collected by a Senate candidate, the Commission will make a supplemental payment of \$5,000.

Supplemental Payments for the General Election								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
House	\$1,250 (15 QCs)	\$2,500 (30 QCs)	\$3,750 (45 QCs)	\$5,000 (60 QCs)	\$6,250 (75 QCs)	\$7,500 (90 QCs)	\$8,750 (105 QCs)	\$10,000 (120 QCs)
Senate	\$5,000 (45 QCs)	\$10,000 (90 QCs)	\$15,000 (135 QCs)	\$20,000 (180 QCs)	\$25,000 (225 QCs)	\$30,000 (270 QCs)	\$35,000 (315 QCs)	\$40,000 (360 QCs)

For More Information: Call the Commission at 287-4179 and ask for a Candidate Registrar.